

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16-18, and 20-27 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-11, 14, 16-18, and 20-26 were rejected. Claims 12 and 13 were objected to. Claims 1, 9, 12, and 13 have been amended. Claims 8, 10, 11, and 20-26 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 27 was allowed.

The Examiner rejected claims 18, 20, 21, and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,292,360 (Carteau). The Examiner also rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carteau in view of Wong. Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11, 14, 16, 17, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,790,374 (Wong) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,628,513 (Gallagher).

The Examiner has reiterated the rejections of the previous office action, stating that the Applicants' arguments set forth in the response to that office action were not persuasive. Despite the Examiner's assertion, the Applicants maintain that the previously presented arguments overcome the cited references, and therefore reassert and incorporate those arguments herein by reference.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, claims 1, 9, 12, and 13 have been amended to more clearly describe the invention. In addition, claims 18-26 have been canceled. Given the distinguishing remarks from the previous response incorporated herein above, it should be understood that these amendments are not being presented for any reason related to patentability. Rather, these amendments are being provided to move prosecution of the application forward with respect to the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner. The Applicants hereby reserve the right to pursue any canceled claims and any other claims supported by the present specification in related applications.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 8, 10, and 11 (canceled herein without prejudice), with the additional limitation that the first number of status

indicators is different than the second number of status indicators. As the Examiner indicated this subject matter to be allowable, the Applicants believe that claim 1 and the remaining claims dependent on claim 1 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 27.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (510) 663-1100.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph M. Villeneuve', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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